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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 42, 48, and 54 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 9-12, 17-19, 38-41, 43-46, 49-52 and 55-64 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and allow claims 1-3, 9-12, 17-19, 38-41, 43-46, 49-52 and 55-64. In any event, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the above amendments in the case because these amendments reduce the number of issues on appeal. Specifically, the issues identified in the originally filed Appeal Brief as Issue 3 and Issue 4 will no longer be issues in the case. These amendments were not made earlier because Applicants earnestly believe that the claims met all applicable requirements.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§112, first and second paragraphs, and §102(b) are overcome. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

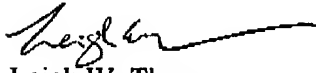
If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

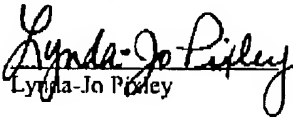
Respectfully submitted,


Leigh W. Thorne
Registration No. 47,992

Customer No. 29122
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number 703-872-9306 on the date shown below.


Lynda-Jo Poley

July 27, 2004
Date

RTA2159269v1